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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Production and Marketing Administration Food Distribution Programs Branch Washington 25, D.C.

# MONTHLY FOOD SUPPLY REPORT - MAY 1946

The May survey of the adequacy of food supplies indicated that supplies of major food items were generally more scarce than during early April. Significant declines in the availability of canned vegetables, canned tomatoes and tomato juice, frozen fruits (except strawberries), meats, lard, and rice were reflected. Supplies of canned and frozen fruits, canned tomatoes, dried bears, meats (except chicken, fish, and cold cuts), butter, cheeses, fats and oils, rice, and coaps and washing powder were reported as generally scarce. The supplies of canned fruit juices, canned green and wax beans, oranges, Irish potatoes, cabbage, eggs, and chicken were meeting demands in a large proportion of the reporting areas. Irish potatoes were reported surplus in more than ten percent of the areas in four of the five regions. Sugar supplies were generally meeting ration demands in all regions except the northeast.

The 212 reports summarized in this analysis are based on information gathered by field representatives of the Production and Marketing Administration during the first week of May at meetings of food advisory committees and by direct communication with the food trades. The number of area reports received from each of the five regions is as follows: northeast 30, midwest 62, south 45, southwest 12, and west 33.

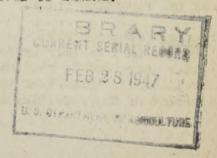
The analysis, as in the past, is divided into three parts. Part I is a narrative summary of the month's developments. Part II sets forth percentage figures for each region, dividing commodities into three groups; generally scarce, generally adequate, and unbalanced. It must be remembered that these percentages are based on the number of areas reporting the situation, rather than on quantitive measures. Furthermore, each area report is given equal weight in computing regional and U.S. totals. Thus, shortage situations or differences amont regions may be exaggerated. Part III shows the food availability situation in 20 selected localities.

The three categories of adequacy of supplies used in this survey are defined as follows:

Scarce: Supply is less than three-quarters of current demand.

Adequate: Supply is more than three-quarters of current demand but not sufficiently in excess of demand to cause excessive inventories.

Surplus: Supplies available in quantities greater than demand. Inventories heavy and rapidly becoming excessive in view of current level of demand.



### PART I - ADEQUACE OF FOOD SUPPLIES

### Fruits and Vegetables:

Ganned Fruits: Supplies of canned fruits were scarce in parctically all reporting areas throughout the country during early May. Pears, pineapple, and fruit cocktail were reported scarce in 99 percent of the reporting areas, and peaches in 94 percent.

Canned Juice: Supplies of grapefruit juice, orange juice, and orange-grapefruit blended plice continued to be sufficient to meet demands generally. Grapefruit juice showed an increase in the proportion of surplus areas in the west, twelve percent of the reporting areas in this region reporting that supplies were obtainable in quantities greater than demand in May compared with 3 percent in April. Pineapple Juice continued to be scarce in 99 percent of the reporting areas. Some decline in the availability of tomate juice was indicated, compared to the previous month as four of the five regions reported an increase in the proportion of areas reporting a scarcity. Tomate juice was reported adequate in 68 percent of the areas in early May as compared to 76 percent for the previous menth.

Canned Vegetables: Supplies of canned green and wax beans, corn, and peas remained generally adequate, throughout most areas. However, compared to a month ago, significant declines were observed in the proportion of areas in all regions reporting adequate or surplus supplies. Tomatoes were reported scarce in 37 percent of the areas, compared with 37 percent a month earlier.

Frozen Frozen apricots and peaches were reported scarce in slightly over 70 percent of the reporting areas compared to about 65 percent for the previous month. Little change was noted in the availability of frozen strawberries which have been reported scarce since January in more than 94 percent of the areas, and are not meeting demand in 95 percent of the areas. A general decline in the availability of frozen vegetables was reported. Frozen lima beans were reported scarce in 79 percent of the reporting areas, and frozen peas in 40 percent. Frozen snap beans and frozen corn were meeting demands in about two-thirds of the reporting areas. Supplies of frozen spinach continued generally adequate.

Dried Foods: The supply of dried prunes was generally meeting demand and reflected little change from a month earlier. Supplies continued unbalanced between regions with a higher proportion of areas in the northeast and west than in other regions reporting this item scarce. For the country as a whole the availability of raisins remained about the same as reported the previous month with about one-half of the areas reporting supplies sufficient to meet demands. Significant declines in the availability of raisins in the west was offset by increases in other regions. Dry beans were scarce in 89 percent of the reporting areas.

Fresh Foods: Irish potatoes were adequate or surplus in 99 percent of the reporting areas and were reported surplus in over 10 percent of the reporting areas in each region except the west. Although remaining generally adequate, supplies of oranges were reported scarce in 13 percent of the areas compared to only 2 percent in early April. Marked declines in the swailability of oranges were noted in the midwest and southwest. The supply of cabbage was meeting demand in 98 percent of the reporting areas.

Meats: Compared with the previous month, supplies of neats currently are neeting demands in a smaller proportion of the reporting areas. The availability of supplies decreased in the southwest and west in April where supplies were more readily available in these than in other regions. Beef steak and reast were scarce in 91 percent of the reporting areas. Hamburger was reported scarce in 87 percent of

the reporting areas, compared to 72 percent a month earlier. Supplies of veal and pork, excluding salted fat cuts and bacon were source in 98 percent of the reporting areas. Eighty-six percent of the areas reported a scarcity of salted fat cuts and 96 percent reported a scarcity of bacon. Lamb was generally more readily available than other fresh meats, but it was reported scarce in 63 percent of the areas. Supplies of cold cuts were reported adequate or surplus in 76 percent of the areas compared to 91 percent the previous month. About one-half of the areas reported a sufficient supply of canned meats to fill the demand.

Fish: The supply of fresh and frozen fish was generally meeting demand throughout most areas and the supply appeared well distributed between regions. Canned salmon, tuna and sardines were reported scarce in practically all areas.

Dairy Products: Butter continued to be reported scarce in 92 percent of the areas, showing little change from the previous month. Cheese was reported scarce in 90 percent of the areas— the same as reported a month ago. The evaporated milk situation improved slightly in all regions except the northeast, where the supply was insufficient to meet demand in 73 percent of the reporting areas. The acute shortage in all the regions except the midwest and west continued.

Fats and Oils: Little change from the previous month was observed in the availability of margarine. During the current period, 89 percent of the areas reported a scarcity. Supplies were more generally available in the midwest than in other regions; however, only 26 percent of the areas in this region reported adequate supplies this month compared with 33 percent last month. Supplies of lard were insufficient to meet demand in 83 percent and shortening in 99 percent of the areas. Salad oils were scarce in all reporting areas.

Sugar: Sugar was meeting the ration demand in 88 percent of the reporting areas, compared to 93 percent a month earlier. A significant decline in the availability of sigar was reported in the northeast, where 47 percent of the areas reported it as scarce this month compared to 23 percent last month.

Soap: Soaps and washing powders were generally scarce throughout the country. No significant changes were observed from the previous month except in the west, where a slight increase in the percentage of areas reporting an adequate supply of washing powders was observed.

Other Items: Shell egg supplies were adequate or surplus in 96 percent of the reporting areas, as compared to 99 percent during early April. Significant decreases in the percentages of surplus areas was observed in four of the five regions.

Supplies of chicken were generally adequate in a large proportion of the areas in each region. However, the percentage of areas reporting insufficient supplies increased from 10 percent during arrly April to 19 percent for the curent period.

Rice continued to decline in availability during the period with 89 percent of the areas reporting it as scarce in May compared to 78 percent the previous month. A decline in availability was reported in all regions.

## PART II - NATIONAL AND REGIONAL SITUATION BY COMMODITIES

FOODS THAT ARE GENERALLY SCARCE (A) -- reported scarce by at least one-third of the areas in all five regions. National figures are based on the actual number of areas reporting, and are not averages of the regional percentages.

Percent	Reporting	Scarce	Supplies
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Fruits & Vegetables	y. S.	N. E.	M. V.	S.	S. W.	W.
Canned Fruit Cocktail Canned Peaches Canned Pears Canned Pineapple Canned Pineapple Juice Canned Tomatoes Frozen Apricots Frozen Peaches Frozen Strawberries Frozen Lima Beans Dried Beans	99 94 99 99 99 97 71 73 95 79	100 97 100 100 97 100 80 70 97 67	100 92 100 100 100 97 74 74 95 80	100 96 100 100 100 96 67 76 95 90 89	100 98 100 100 100 95 72 82 92 87 93	91 88 94 97 94 97 60 57 97 63 91
Meats, Fish, Dairy Products and Fats						
Beef Steak Beef Roasts Hamburger Veal: Steaks, Chops, & Roasts Lamb: " " " Pork: Loins, Chops, & Roasts Ham & Shoulder, Fresh " " Cured Salted Fat Cuts Bacon Canned Meats Canned Salmon " Tuna " Sardines Butter Cheeses (All Types) Margarine Lard Shortening Salad Oils	92 91 87 98 83 98 98 98 96 46 96 46 99 98 97 92 90 89 83 99	97 97 97 100 97 100 100 100 100 93 100 83 100	97 95 93 100 95 98 98 98 88 92 38 100 78 87 74 60 98 100	100 100 96 100 100 28 98 89 100 60 100 100 98 98 91 98 96 100	86 86 83 90 62 95 98 95 81 98 52 100 97 92 98 88 90 95 100	76 73 58 97 55 97 100 100 :94 97 46 91 94 98 91 100
Miscellaneous						
Soaps: Bar Laundry Flakes & Granules Washing Powders Rice	99 99 93 89	97 97 93 93	100 100 97 82	98 100 98 96	100 98 90 90	. 100 97 85 91

FOODS THAT ARE CEMERALLY ADEQUATE (B) -- reported in adequate or surplus supply by more than two-thirds of the areas in all five regions. Percentages starred include 10 percent or more "surplus" reports; those double-starred include 25 percent or rore. National figures are based on the actual number of areas reporting and are not averages of the regional percentages.

	Percent	Reporting	Adequate	or Su	rplus !	Supplies
Fruits and Vegetables	U.S.	N.E.	M.W.	S.	S. V.	₩.
Canned Grapefruit Juice  " Orange Juice " Orange-Grapefruit Juice " Bears, Green & Wax  Canned Peas Frozen Spinach Fresh Cranges Irish Potatoes Fresh Cabbage  Other Items	98 97 98 85 76 85 87 99* 98	100 100 100 37 73 93 97 100*	98 97 93 92 81 87 77 98* 98	98 98 100 87 69 80 96 100%	95 98 98 88 78 75 81 100* 95	100% 100; 94 67 79 87 91 97
Eggs Chicken	96 81	100	98 <b>*</b> 73	91 78	95 80	97 88

FOODS THAT APE UNBALANCED (U) - reported adequate or surplus in more than twothirds of the areas in one to four regions, scarce in other regions. National figures are based on the actual number of areas reporting, and are not averages of the regional percentages.

Percent Reporting Adequate or Surplus Supplies Fruits and Vegetables U.S. S. N.E. M.W. S. W. . 62 Canned Corn " Tomato Juice Frozen Snap Beans Frezen Cut Corn Peas Dried Prines Dried Raisins Meats, Fish & Dairy Products Cold Cuts: Bologna, Salami, etc. 80. Fish, Fresh and Frozen Evaporated Milk Miscellaneous Sugar 

# PART III - LOCAL SITUATIONS

Supplies are indicated as follows: A - Scarce; B - Adequate; C - Surplus; N - No Answer. Letters in parenthesis after commodities refer to groups shown in Part II: (A) - Generally Scarce; (B) - Generally Adequate; (U) - Unbalanced.

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Pears (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
	A	A	A	A	A.	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	А	A	A
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Oranges (B)	щ	Щ	m	В	В	A	В	В	В	Д	В	Д	В	В	В
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TRODUCT	Fruit Cockfail (A) Feaches (A) Pears (A) Pincapple (A) Grapefruit Juice (B) Orange-Grapefruit Juice (B) Pincapple Juice (B)	Beans, Green and Wax (B) Corn (U) Feas (B) Tomatoes (A) Tomato Juice (U)	Frozen Apricots (A) Peaches (A) Strawberries (A) Beans, Lima (A) Beans, Shap (U) Corn, Cut (U) Peas (U)	Dried Prunes (U) Raisins (U) Dry Beans (A) Oranges (B) Potatoes, Irish (B) Cabbage (B)

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